

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A body member of a powder container, comprising:  
a powder storing body storing powder and formed with an opening at one end;  
a base member affixed to said opening of said powder storing body; and  
an outlet member, which is formed with a passage configured to deliver the powder from said powder storing body to an outlet of the body member and has a shutter for selectively blocking or unblocking said passage of said outlet member, said outlet member being selectively connectable to said base member,

wherein said base member comprises a powder passage that allows the powder to flow therethrough, and said powder passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter,

wherein said shutter is a cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member and is removably fittable in a transverse cylindrical shutter hole of said outlet member which transverse cylindrical shutter hole is substantially transverse to the powder passage, wherein the cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member has a cylinder axis parallel to an axis of the transverse cylindrical shutter hole.

Claim 2. (Cancelled).

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) The body member as claimed in claim 1, wherein an opening area of said powder passage of said base member decreases from said opening of said powder storing body toward said outlet member.

Claim 4. (Original) The body member as claimed in claim 1, wherein said base member is rectangular and includes a pair of side surfaces, which face each other, substantially parallel to a front and a rear surface of said powder storing body, and a width between a right and a left surface of said powder storing body is smaller than a width between said pair of side surfaces of said base member.

Claim 5. (Original) The body member as claimed in claim 1, wherein said powder storing body is formed of a flexible material.

Claim 6. (Original) The body member as claimed in claim 5, wherein said powder storing body comprises sheets constituting side surfaces when said base member is positioned at a bottom, and a sheet member constituting a top, and said sheets each are formed of a fold foldable inward.

Claim 7. (Original) The body member as claimed in claim 5, wherein said powder storing body comprises sheets constituting side surfaces when said base member is positioned at a bottom, and a sheet member constituting a top, at least inner surfaces of said sheets, constituting the side surfaces and adjacent to said base member, are inclined toward said base member little by little, and an angle between each of the inner surfaces and a horizontal plane is greater than an angle of repose of the powder when said powder is packed in said powder storing body.

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A toner cartridge comprising:  
a toner storing body formed with an open portion at one end;

a toner stored in said toner storing body;  
an outlet configured to discharge the toner from said toner cartridge;  
an outlet member formed with a passage configured to deliver the toner from said toner storing body to the outlet and having a shutter for selectively blocking or unblocking said passage; and

a base member affixed to said open portion of said toner storing body and configured to be selectively connected to or disconnected from said outlet member,

wherein said base member comprises a toner passage that allows the toner to flow therethrough, and said toner passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter,

wherein said shutter is a cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member and is removably fittable in a transverse cylindrical shutter hole of said outlet member which transverse cylindrical shutter hole is substantially transverse to the powder passage, wherein the cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member has a cylinder axis parallel to an axis of the transverse cylindrical shutter hole.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) A refillable toner cartridge comprising:

a toner storing body formed with an open portion at one end;  
a refilled toner refilled in said toner storing body when said toner storing body is emptied at least one time;  
an outlet configured to discharge the refilled toner from said toner cartridge;  
an outlet member formed with a passage configured to deliver the refilled toner from said toner storing body to the outlet and having a shutter for selectively blocking or unblocking said passage; and

a base member affixed to said open portion of said toner storing body and configured to be selectively connected to or disconnected from said outlet member,

wherein said base member comprises a toner passage that allows the toner to flow therethrough, and said toner passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter,

wherein said shutter is a cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member and is removably fittable in a transverse cylindrical shutter hole of said outlet member which transverse cylindrical shutter hole is substantially transverse to the powder passage, wherein the cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member has a cylinder axis parallel to an axis of the transverse cylindrical shutter hole.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A powder container, comprising:

a powder storing body storing powder and formed with an opening at one end;

a base member affixed to said opening of said powder storing body; and

an outlet member, which is formed with a passage configured to deliver the powder from said powder storing body to an outlet of the powder container and has a shutter for selectively blocking or unblocking said passage, selectively connectable to said base member,

wherein said base member comprises a passage that allows the toner to flow therethrough, and said passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter,

wherein said shutter is a cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member and is removably fittable in a transverse cylindrical shutter hole of said outlet member which transverse cylindrical shutter hole is substantially transverse to the powder

passage, wherein the cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member has a cylinder axis parallel to an axis of the transverse cylindrical shutter hole.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The powder container as claimed in claim 10, wherein said powder storing body is formed of a flexible material.

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) A powder container, comprising:  
a powder storing body storing powder and formed with an opening at one end;  
a base member affixed to said opening of said powder storing body; and  
an outlet member, which is formed with a passage configured to deliver the powder from said powder storing body to an outlet of the powder container and has a shutter for selectively blocking or unblocking said passage, selectively connectable to said base member, wherein said base member comprises a passage that allows the toner to flow therethrough, and said passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter,  
wherein said outlet member comprises a first part selectively connectable to said base member and a second part fitted ~~fittable~~ in the first part and including the shutter.

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A body member of a powder container, comprising:  
a powder storing body storing powder and formed with an opening at one end;  
a base member affixed to said opening of said powder storing body; and  
an outlet member, which is formed with a passage configured to deliver the powder from said powder storing body to an outlet of the body member and has a shutter for

selectively blocking or unblocking said passage of said outlet member, said outlet member being selectively connectable to said base member,

wherein said base member comprises a powder passage that allows the powder to flow therethrough, and said powder passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter at a side of said shutter toward said outlet of said base member,

wherein said shutter is a cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member and is removably fittable in a transverse cylindrical shutter hole of said outlet member which transverse cylindrical shutter hole is substantially transverse to the powder passage, wherein the cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member has a cylinder axis parallel to an axis of the transverse cylindrical shutter hole.

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) A toner cartridge comprising:

a toner storing body formed with an open portion at one end;

a toner stored in said toner storing body;

an outlet configured to discharge the toner from said toner cartridge;

an outlet member formed with a passage configured to deliver the toner from said toner storing body to the outlet and having a shutter for selectively blocking or unblocking said passage; and

a base member affixed to said open portion of said toner storing body and configured to be selectively connected to or disconnected from said outlet member,

wherein said base member comprises a toner passage that allows the toner to flow therethrough, and said toner passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an

opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter at a side of said shutter toward said outlet of said base member,

wherein said shutter is a cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member and is removably fittable in a transverse cylindrical shutter hole of said outlet member which transverse cylindrical shutter hole is substantially transverse to the powder passage, wherein the cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member has a cylinder axis parallel to an axis of the transverse cylindrical shutter hole.

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) A refillable toner cartridge comprising:

a toner storing body formed with an open portion at one end;

a refilled toner refilled in said toner storing body when said toner storing body is emptied at least one time;

an outlet configured to discharge the refilled toner from said toner cartridge;

an outlet member formed with a passage configured to deliver the refilled toner from said toner storing body to the outlet and having a shutter for selectively blocking or unblocking said passage; and

a base member affixed to said open portion of said toner storing body and configured to be selectively connected to or disconnected from said outlet member,

wherein said base member comprises a toner passage that allows the toner to flow therethrough, and said toner passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter at a side of said shutter toward said outlet of said base member,

wherein said shutter is a cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member and is removably fittable in a transverse cylindrical shutter hole of said outlet

member which transverse cylindrical shutter hole is substantially transverse to the powder passage, wherein the cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member has a cylinder axis parallel to an axis of the transverse cylindrical shutter hole.

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) A powder container, comprising:  
a powder storing body storing powder and formed with an opening at one end;  
a base member affixed to said opening of said powder storing body; and  
an outlet member, which is formed with a passage configured to deliver the powder from said powder storing body to an outlet of the powder container and has a shutter for selectively blocking or unblocking said passage, selectively connectable to said base member,  
wherein said base member comprises a passage that allows the toner to flow therethrough, and said passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter at a side of said shutter toward said outlet of said base member,  
wherein said shutter is a cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member and is removably fittable in a transverse cylindrical shutter hole of said outlet member which transverse cylindrical shutter hole is substantially transverse to the powder passage, wherein the cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member has a cylinder axis parallel to an axis of the transverse cylindrical shutter hole.

Claims 17-20. (Cancelled).

Claim 21. (New) A method of introducing toner into a refillable toner cartridge comprising a toner storing body formed with an open portion at one end, an outlet configured



to discharge toner from said toner cartridge, an outlet member formed with a passage configured to deliver toner from said toner storing body to the outlet and having a shutter for selectively blocking or unblocking said passage, and a base member affixed to said open portion of said toner storing body and configured to be selectively connected to or disconnected from said outlet member, wherein said base member comprises a toner passage that allows the toner to flow therethrough, and said toner passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter, wherein said shutter is a cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member and is removably fittable in a transverse cylindrical shutter hole of said outlet member which transverse cylindrical shutter hole is substantially transverse to the powder passage, wherein the cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member has a cylinder axis parallel to an axis of the transverse cylindrical shutter hole, the method comprising the steps of:

providing for said outlet member to be separated from said base member;

introducing toner into said toner storing body via said toner passage of said base member while said outlet member is separated from said base member; and

connecting said base member and said outlet member after toner has been introduced into said toner storing body via said toner passage of said base member while said outlet member is separated from said base member.

Claim 22. (New) A method of introducing toner into a refillable toner cartridge comprising a body member of a powder container comprising a powder storing body storing powder and formed with an opening at one end, a base member affixed to said opening of said powder storing body, and an outlet member, which is formed with a passage configured

to deliver the powder from said powder storing body to an outlet of the body member and has a shutter for selectively blocking or unblocking said passage of said outlet member, said outlet member being selectively connectable to said base member, wherein said base member comprises a powder passage that allows the powder to flow therethrough, and said powder passage of said base member has an opening area, as measured at an outlet of said base member adjacent to an inlet of said outlet member, larger than an opening area of said passage of said outlet member adjacent said shutter, wherein said shutter is a cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member and is removably fittable in a transverse cylindrical shutter hole of said outlet member which transverse cylindrical shutter hole is substantially transverse to the powder passage, wherein the cylindrical member traversing the passage of said outlet member has a cylinder axis parallel to an axis of the transverse cylindrical shutter hole, the method comprising the steps of:

providing for said outlet member to be separated from said base member;

introducing powder into said powder storing body via said toner passage of said base member while said outlet member is separated from said base member; and

connecting said base member and said outlet member after powder has been introduced into said powder storing body via said powder passage of said base member while said outlet member is separated from said base member.